

# AGENDA FOR

## BURY LOCAL BEE NETWORK FORUM



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**To: All Members of Bury Local Bee Network Forum**

**Councillors :** G Staples-Jones (Chair), U Farooq, J Harris,  
G Marsden and J Southworth

Dear Member/Colleague

### **Bury Local Bee Network Forum**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Bury Local Bee Network Forum which will be held as follows:-

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 25 September 2025
<b>Place:</b>	Committee Rooms A & B, Bury Town Hall
<b>Time:</b>	6.00 pm
<b>Briefing Facilities:</b>	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.

## **AGENDA**

### **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any Declarations of Interest.

### **3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** *(Pages 3 - 6)*

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting.

### **4 UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE** *(Pages 7 - 10)*

### **5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Questions are invited from members of the public present at the meeting on any matters for which this Committee is responsible.

Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time if required.

### **6 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

### **7 BEE NETWORK QUARTERLY UPDATE & TRANSPORT UPDATE FOR BURY COUNCIL** *(Pages 11 - 16)*

### **8 PRESTWICH TRAVEL HUB** *(Pages 17 - 18)*

### **9 DELIVERING ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES IN BURY** *(Pages 19 - 20)*

### **10 WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026 & REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** *(Pages 21 - 22)*

### **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Bury Town Hall.

<b>Minutes of:</b>	<b>BURY LOCAL BEE NETWORK FORUM</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Present:</b>	Councillor G Staples-Jones (in the Chair) Councillors G Marsden and J Southworth
<b>Also in attendance:</b>	Bury Council Officers:- Natalie Blackston, Lee Buggie, Michael Cunliffe TfGM Officers:- Christine Bainbridge and Dan Coles.
<b>Public Attendance:</b>	No members of the public were present at the meeting.

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## **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair made introductions and welcomed all present to the meeting.  
Apologies were submitted by Councillor U Farooq and Joanne Betts.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

## **3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **It was agreed:**

That the minutes be approved.

## **4 UPDATE ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS/YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

The Chair informed the meeting that a Democratic Arrangement Forum had agreed that public questions and a youth representative could be incorporated into the Bury Local Bee Network Forum. As a result, the relevant changes would be made to the terms of reference within the Council's constitution and be approved at the full Council meeting in July ahead of the next Forum in September.

## **5 HEALTH & TRANSPORT ACTIVATION**

Lee Buggie, Public Health Specialist, Live Well & Healthy Place attended the meeting.

He provided the forum with a presentation on the progress of delivering Bury Public Health's – LETS Get Bury Moving Framework's ambition around integrating physical activity into everyone's daily routines. The local Bee Network infrastructure was pivotal in achieving the Chief Medical Officers activity levels for good health across the life course.

Evidence and local insight indicated that some of Bury's communities experience stark inequalities and that access to traditional sports facilities just isn't feasible given cost of living priorities around food, housing and warmth.

Bury Public Health and stakeholders are working closely with Early Years around physical development levels along with schools around National Childhood Measurement Programme outcomes at reception and year 6. There is significant work locally to engage those living well and the working / training and education population's nudging those contemplating active travel into commuting, utility and recreational travel options.

The Presentation covered:-

- Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) completed around the LET'S Get Bury Moving Strategy
- Schools and education accreditation
- Business activation
- Ageing Walking Audits
- Activation

Councillor Green commented that she lived near a school and would be interested in involving them in the project. Lee Buggie would arrange to meet with Councillor Green.

The Chair stated that a number of Members are school Governors and was there anything they could be sent to promote the scheme. Dan Coles reported there are a number of schools in Greater Manchester that they could work with and was happy to have a further discussion on the topic.

**It was agreed:**

That the Forum noted the report/ presentation and also provided comments on delivering the Bee Network Update around infrastructure and activation for health and wellbeing across active travel networks and further ambitions around more links to walking, wheeling and cycling options.

**6**

## **TRANSPORT UPDATE FOR BURY COUNCIL LOCAL BEE NETWORK FORUM**

Daniel Coles representing Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) provided Elected Members with an update on the Local Bee Network Forum transport update between April and June 2025.

The detailed report included in the agenda packs covered strategic activity, network updates along with wider local updates.

**It was agreed:**

That the report be noted.

**7**

## **BEE NETWORK QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Daniel Coles provided a verbal update on progress in delivering the Bee Network, Greater Manchester's plan for a high-quality, affordable and fully integrated public transport and active travel system for the people and businesses of Greater Manchester.

The Chair enquired why there had been a delay with Whitefield tunnel and it was reported this was due to trees on public land with a 28-day notice issued before work was undertaken.

Members also discussed densely populated urban areas and sink holes in the Prestwich area which impacted on bus routes along lesser roads away from main routes due to the area being congested and built on a sand-based footing.

**It was agreed:**

That the report be noted and comments submitted on the Bee Network quarterly update.

**8****BURY INTERCHANGE REDEVELOPMENT- PHASE 1**

Christine Bainbridge, Projects and Programme Manager, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) presented an update on the Bury Interchange redevelopment project, Phase 1: Metrolink Access & Platform Improvement Works.

The project would deliver a modern, integrated transport hub joining up bus, tram and active travel as part of the Bee Network with significantly improved passenger facilities.

The new interchange will form a key part of the Bee Network - Greater Manchester's joined-up transport network – with buses, trams and better walking, wheeling and cycling links all in one place.

It will also be a key component in Bury's Town Centre Masterplan, acting as a catalyst for regeneration in the area and providing an improved gateway to the town centre.

The focus of the presentation was the Phase 1 proposals which include a new town centre footbridge that will span the Metrolink lines from Union Square to Pyramid Park, the bridge will serve as a second, new access to the tram platforms. Phase 1 also includes platform and canopy improvements.

The Presentation covered:-

- Project objectives
- Progress to date
- Phasing of the scheme
- Designs
- Access
- New bridge
- Platform improvements
- Connection to Union Square & Pyramid Park
- Underpass
- Planning application
- Timescales

The Committee Clerk would circulate the slide deck to Members of the Committee.

Councillor Green asked if the art consultants would meet with young people to discuss artwork and feed into the project.

Councillor Southworth enquired about cycle storage and it was reported that this was part of active travel across GM and using the app maybe the best way to utilise them.

**It was agreed:**

That the report and presentation update be noted.

**9****WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026**

The Forum looked at the draft work programme for 2025/26 and potential items to place in future meetings over the remainder of the municipal year.

**It was agreed:**

That the work programme be noted and added to over time.

**10**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was agreed:**

That the next meeting will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday the 25th September 2025 at Bury Town Hall.

**COUNCILLOR G STAPLES-JONES**

**Chair**

**(Note: The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.20pm)**

**Terms of Reference: Bury Local Bee Network Forum**

Title	Bury Local Bee Network Forum
<b>Function/Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accountability:</b> To be accountable to residents and the Bee Network Committee for transport matters in their local area and vice versa.</li> <li>• <b>Feedback:</b> To actively monitor the delivery and performance of services linked to the Bee Network and as appropriate recommend change/improvement to the Bee Network Committee through the local Transport Lead Member/Representative.</li> <li>• <b>Participation:</b> Provide robust mechanisms for elected members and service users to feedback through regular participation at local Bee Network forums. This will include Public Questions being included as a standard agenda item (For a duration of 30 minutes only).</li> <li>• <b>Local Co-ordination:</b> Identify how issues arising at the Bee Network Committee might impact and be mitigated or responded to in the local area.</li> <li>• <b>Policy Development:</b> Support and contribute to policy development and strategy delivery linked to the Bee Network.</li> <li>• <b>Cross Cutting Analysis:</b> Analyse cross-cutting issues that may affect GM's ability to deliver an efficient service. For instance, through improved co-ordination of roadworks to ensure disruption are kept to a minimum.</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory/Decision Making/Informal</b>	<b>The Bury Local Bee Network Forum will be a formal non-decision making body.</b>
<b>Core Membership</b>	<b>The Bury Local Bee Network Forum will have a core membership of 5 elected members and be politically balanced. Forum Members will be:</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour x3</li> <li>• Conservative x1</li> <li>• Radcliffe First x1</li> </ul> <p>Core members of the Forum will be required to attend training to assist in undertaking the role of a Forum member.</p>
<b>Additional membership</b>	<p>All elected members will have a standing invite to Forum meetings.</p> <p>The following officers will also be invited attend the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury Council's GM Transport Strategy Group Representatives (Joanne Betts / Natalie Blackston)</li> <li>• Lee Buggie, Public Health Specialist, Bury Council.</li> <li>• Council officers – As required</li> </ul> <p>Membership may also be extended in future to include other stakeholders, such as representatives from local groups or organisations, particularly groups that represent those who may experience barriers to using Bee Network services, or to advise on specific issues.</p> <p>A young person representative selected from the Youth Council will also be invited to meetings and able to address the forum.</p>
<b>Chair</b>	<p>Forum meetings will be chaired by Cllr Gareth Staples Jones.</p> <p>The Chair may choose to appoint a Vice Chair.</p> <p>In the absence of the Chair or the Vice-Chair, a replacement Chair will be elected for the duration of the meeting.</p>



<b>Meeting arrangements</b>	<p><b>The Forum will meet quarterly.</b></p> <p><b>Forum meetings will be held in person and in public.</b></p> <p><b>The agenda and supporting papers will be in a standard format and circulated at least five clear working days in advance of meetings.</b></p>
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<b>Classification:</b> Open	Item No.
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<b>Meeting:</b>	Bury Local Bee Network Forum
<b>Meeting date:</b>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>Title of report:</b>	Bee Network Quarterly Update
<b>Report by:</b>	Natalie Blackston
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Report for information
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	All

### Summary

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) will present an update on progress in delivering the Bee Network, Greater Manchester's plan for a high-quality, affordable and fully integrated public transport and active travel system for the people and businesses of Greater Manchester.

The update will include:

- The launch of a new night bus service for Bury (135)
- The new 18–21 Bus Pass offering half-price travel
- The Our Pass scheme going digital via the Bee Network app.

A TfGM Bee Network update report is attached for information.

### Recommendation

The Bee Network Forum is requested to note and comment on the Bee Network quarterly update.

### Reasons for recommendation

For information and discussion.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

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### Report Author and Contact Details:

Natalie Blackston n.blackston@bury.gov.uk

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## Transport Update for Bury Council Local Bee Network Forum

June-August 2025

### Improving the Bee Network

- The latest allocation of £20.7 million of funding to support walking, wheeling and cycling [was approved](#) by members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in August. This comes after Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham committed to giving more healthy and green travel options to millions of residents across the city-region. The latest round of funding will support a range of interventions, including:
  - **Active travel infrastructure** - £8.6m for improved or replaced surfacing for walking, wheeling and cycling, new crossings and upgraded junctions, bus stops and traffic management.
  - **School Streets** - £2m towards maintenance on highways near to schools such as dropped kerbs, improvement of pavements and footpaths and traffic management.
  - **Bee Network crossings** - £2m for new or upgraded traffic signal junctions near schools.
  - **Cycle hire** - £1.5m towards new e-bikes and the extension of the existing Starling Bank Bike hire contract to 2028, to continue enhancing the fleet and with the potential to expand the footprint of the existing scheme.
  - **Community-led schemes** – £1.7m for schemes that help people make the switch to active travel, including bike libraries, walk to school and learn to ride schemes.
  - **Bee Network scheme development** – £2.2m for new Local Authority-led active travel schemes.
  - **Remedial works** – £1.1m for the maintenance and renewal of existing active travel schemes, including changes to existing paths and routes and addressing access issues that prevent those with mobility needs from using certain routes.
  - A further £500,000 was approved for both secure cycle parking and new route signage.
- Two new hourly night buses services are [proposed](#) on the **135 (Manchester – Prestwich – Bury)** and the **17/17a (Manchester – Middleton – Rochdale)** which would connect Bury and Rochdale town centres with Manchester city centre. The new routes will initially run on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. This reflects patronage trends which show that demand is expected to be initially lower at the start and middle of the week.
- Around 150,000 18–21-year-olds in Greater Manchester will benefit from half price Bee Network bus travel, better connecting them to work, training or education opportunities. [Set to launch](#) on 1 September 2025, young people will be able to buy a 28-day bus travelcard for £40 - half the adult fare price they would normally pay.
- Speeding drivers in Greater Manchester are now more likely to be caught as part of [new investment](#) in the region's safety camera network to improve road safety and support Vision Zero, the ambition to end all road fatalities and life-changing injuries by 2040. The upgraded cameras can capture two-way traffic and use low-light infra-red, meaning they will no longer flash at speeding drivers. There are now 88 upgraded spot speed and currently installing 25 average speed routes across Greater Manchester.
- Air quality across Greater Manchester is getting better thanks to investments in cleaner public transport. Newly-released figures show that air pollution dropped again in 2024 in the city

region. [The latest report](#) shows that 38 places had illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide, down from 64 in 2023 and 129 in 2019. As part of Greater Manchester's accelerated investment in public transport, the Bee Network is helping reduce air pollution by introducing more low and zero-emission buses.

- At its meeting in July, the Bee Network Committee [approved](#) a series of funding allocations from Greater Manchester's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. This is set to support a wide range of interventions to improve how people move around the city region - whether by bus, bike, tram, or on foot. This includes GM wide improvements relating to:
  - **Bus stop upgrades** – £4.5m. More than 220 bus stops will be enhanced with new shelters, raised kerbs, better road markings, and improved walking routes - making bus travel more comfortable and accessible for everyone.
  - **Passenger Information Displays** – £2.7m. Real-time travel information is coming to 319 bus stops locations and five transport interchanges, helping passengers plan their journeys with confidence.
- Transport for Greater Manchester has [started](#) a procurement process to deliver up to £1.6bn of infrastructure that will help to maintain and grow Metrolink and improve rail accessibility within Greater Manchester. The contract covers Metrolink's asset renewals programme, which includes replacing key infrastructure – such as track, overhead lines and the distribution system that provides power to trams.
- Around 400,000 older and disabled people in Greater Manchester have been able to benefit from round-the-clock concessionary bus travel as part of a [new pilot](#) in August. The pre-9.30am travel restriction has been lifted on a trial basis for a month on all buses for those with a TfGM-issued concessionary travel pass. The trial is being held to look at the impact of lifting the 9.30am restriction on peak bus services and those shortly after 9.30am. At the conclusion of the trial, the evidence gathered during it, including analysing passenger feedback, patronage and pass usage, will be assessed before a decision is made on whether the move can be made permanent.

### **Network Updates**

- Punctuality of the first buses to come under local control (tranche 1, which includes some Bury services) is now consistently above 80%, with recent data from tranches 2 (including the remainder of Bury services) and 3 also showing this target being met on a regular basis. This is up from an average of c69% pre-franchising. The latest punctuality report (published weekly here) during the period 17-23 August shows the following:
  - Tranche 1 punctuality: 88.2%
  - Tranche 2 punctuality: 83.0%
- As part of the ongoing programme of maintenance and renewal works across the Metrolink network there has been work on the Bury line to replace beams in the Whitefield Tunnel. This work has been delayed due to the discovery of bats in the tunnel but is now scheduled to take place in late October.
- Aimed at delivering joined-up, reliable services, a programme of local bus network reviews continues. Network Reviews will explore how buses can better serve communities, making improvements that would not have been possible before franchising. Work on the Bury network

progressed through initial engagement in late 2024, and we have now undertaken a detailed GM-wide connectivity assessment, identifying gaps and opportunities in the current provision. An overview of the assessment as well as a revised process for taking forward changes was considered by the Bee Network Committee in June. Subject to approval, further engagement will follow later in 2025.

#### Wider local updates

- **Bury Interchange** – The planning application to create a new southern access to Metrolink (including a footbridge, lift and stairs) was approved by Bury Council on 22 July. TfGM are continuing to develop the design for the main interchange in partnership with Bury Council and other stakeholders. The opportunity to include a residential development alongside the interchange continues to be developed, with initial design work progressing.
- **Elton Reservoir New Stop** – TfGM are continuing development work on proposals for a new Metrolink stop, Travel Hub and Park & Ride, to be delivered as part of the strategic allocation for circa 3500 homes and supporting infrastructure, identified in Places for Everyone. Updated designs for the stop and Travel Hub/Park & Ride area have been developed and will be shared with the master planning consultant and other stakeholders for review shortly. The designs support and maximise benefits associated with the wider scheme (for instance by supporting increased housing density around the Metrolink stop area).
- **Metrolink Stop Improvements Programme** – Heaton Park Phase 1 (shelter improvements) has received “Programme Entry”. Approval secured to submit an Invitation to Tender for a contractor to construct Phase 1. Parallel combined outline/final business case work to be progressed.

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		<b>Classification:</b> Open	Item No.
<b>Meeting:</b>	Bury Local Bee Network Forum		
<b>Meeting date:</b>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September		
<b>Title of report:</b>	Prestwich Travel Hub		
<b>Report by:</b>	Natalie Blackston		
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Report for information.		
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	Prestwich		

### Summary

Bury Council will present an update on the delivery of the Prestwich Travel Hub which is part of the Prestwich Village Regeneration Scheme.

The Prestwich Village Regeneration Scheme will deliver a comprehensive redevelopment of the Prestwich Village site including the Longfield Centre. The scheme will deliver attractive public realm alongside housing, civic, retail and leisure benefits at scale.

Prestwich Travel Hub is Phase 1a of the Prestwich Village Regeneration scheme. The Travel Hub will consolidate multiple and fragmented surface level parking into a single facility, releasing land for 220 residential properties in Phase 2, while Phase 1b will feature a new community hub, leisure/retail offer, new market hall and public realm.

Full planning permission for Phase 1 was granted by the Planning Authority 23rd July 2024.

The project team is now on-site delivering the Travel Hub. This will facilitate the re-development of the Rectory Lane Car Park and the wider regeneration of the site.

### Recommendation

The Bee Network Forum is requested to note progress made with the development of Phase 1A of the Prestwich Village Regeneration scheme.

### Reasons for recommendation

For information and discussion.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

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**Report Author and Contact Details:**

Natalie Blackston - [n.blackston@bury.gov.uk](mailto:n.blackston@bury.gov.uk)

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		<b>Classification:</b> Open	Item No.
<b>Meeting:</b>	Bury Local Bee Network Forum		
<b>Meeting date:</b>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September		
<b>Title of report:</b>	Delivering Active Travel Schemes in Bury		
<b>Report by:</b>	Joanne Betts		
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Report for information.		
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	Boroughwide		

### Summary

Bury Council will provide an update on the delivery of active travel schemes across the Borough, detailing recent completions, current projects in progress, and forthcoming initiatives. These schemes aim to enhance walking and cycling infrastructure, improve connectivity between communities, and support healthier, more sustainable travel choices.

### Recommendation

The Bee Network Forum is asked to note the progress to date and endorse continued support for the active travel programme, including engagement with local communities to promote uptake and ensure alignment with wider transport and public health objectives.

### Reasons for recommendation

For information and discussion.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

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### Report Author and Contact Details:

Joanne Betts - [j.betts@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.betts@bury.gov.uk)

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**WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026**

25 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UPDATED TOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE CO-OPT</li><li>• PRESTWICH TRAVEL HUB</li><li>• DELIVERING THE ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME</li></ul>
4 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DRAFT GM2050 TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION</li></ul>
17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- METROLINK STOPS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME
- SCHOOL TRAVEL

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